

Minutes of Summer Stated Presbytery Meeting
 Trinity Presbyterian Church – Pensacola, FL
 August 22, 2023

The Presbytery of Florida, Inc., of the Synod of South Atlantic of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) met at Trinity, Pensacola, FL, for a Stated Meeting on Tuesday, August 22, 2023.

	Present	Absent	Total
Ruling Elders:			
- Session Commissioners	19	20	39
- Other Continuing Members (RE committee chairs {4}; RE officers {2}; RE educators {1})	4	3	7
- CLPs/CREs	2	2	4
Total Ruling Elders	25	25	50
Ministers of Word and Sacrament	29	13	42
Total Present and Absent	54	38	92
Congregations Represented	17	19	37

MINISTERS OF WORD AND SACRAMENT PRESENT (26):

Michael Askew, Frank Beall, Mark Broadhead, Kwonsoo Cho, Brad Clayton, John Cole, Brant Copeland, Hugh Hamilton, Gene Harris, Harvey Jenkins, Kenneth Kelley, Sun Kim, James Krappf, William Lamont, Ted Land, Lisa Martin, Roy Martin, Catherine Mooney, Taylor Phillips, Linda Pitts, Emily Proctor, Robert Quiring, Erin Rosica, Erin Rugh, Eric Spoon, Sheldon Steen, John Stringer, Trinity Whitley, Joan Wooten.
 (italics = HR)

MINISTERS OF WORD AND SACRAMENT ABSENT (8/5):

Excused Ministers: Anne Apple, Mathew Frease, Raymond Guterman, John Kelsay, A.J. Mealor, Luis Ocasio Torres, Kim Stavenau, Rob Sugg

Unexcused Ministers: Mary Baars O'Malley, Robert Bohnsack, Tai Cole, Pamela Phillips

RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS PRESENT/ABSENT (19/20)

Blountstown, First – unexcused

Chipley, First – Cheryl McCall

Crestview, First – Tim Crawford

Defuniak Springs, Bethel – unexcused

Defuniak Springs, Euchee Valley – excused

Defuniak Springs, First – Hilda Jackson

Destin, First – unexcused

Fort Walton Beach, First – Frances Goodall

Fort Walton Beach, Korean- excused

Freeport, Freeport – unexcused

Gretna, Gretna – excused

Gulf Breeze, Gulf Breeze – Jeff Van Dermark

Havana, First – excused

Laurel Hill, Laurel Hill – Tracy Curenton

- 42 **Lynn Haven, First** – Kathy Welsh
- 43 **Marianna, First** – Leslie Kelley
- 44 **Milton, First** – unexcused
- 45 **Monticello, First** – unexcused
- 46 **Navarre, Navarre** – unexcused
- 47 **Panama City Beach, Gulf Beach** – Rick Clubb
- 48 **Panama City, Grace** – Corey Wilson
- 49 **Panama City, Parkway** – unexcused
- 50 **Panama City, St. Andrews** – excused
- 51 **Pensacola, First** – Susan Rapier
- 52 **Pensacola, Korean** – unexcused
- 53 **Pensacola, Northminster** – Pam Nulty
- 54 **Pensacola, Trinity** – Angie Shehee, Gail Childs
- 55 **Quincy, First** – Francis McCall, Joe May
- 56 **Red Bay, Red Bay** – excused
- 57 **Sawdust, Woodland** – excused
- 58 **Tallahassee, Christ** – Linda Lovins
- 59 **Tallahassee, Faith** – Wayne Largent,
- 60 **Tallahassee, Fellowship** – excused
- 61 **Tallahassee, First** – unexcused
- 62 **Tallahassee, Lafayette** – Kay Lachat
- 63 **Tallahassee, Trinity United** – unexcused
- 64 **Wewahitchka, First** – excused

65 **Sessions not represented:**

66 **Excused Churches (9):**

- 67 Defuniak Springs, Euchee Valley
- 68 Fort Walton Beach, Korean
- 69 Gretna, Gretna
- 70 Havana, First
- 71 Panama City, St. Andrews
- 72 Red Bay, Red Bay
- 73 Sawdust, Woodland
- 74 Tallahassee, Fellowship
- 75 Wewahitchka

76 **Unexcused Churches (10):**

- 77 Blountstown, First
- 78 DeFuniak Springs, Bethel
- 79 Destin, First
- 80 Freeport
- 81 Milton, First
- 82 Navarre
- 83 Panama City, Parkway
- 84 Pensacola, Korean Community
- 85 Tallahassee, First
- 86 Tallahassee, Trinity United

87 **CONTINUING MEMBERS:**

88 **CREs present (1):**

89 Greg Seltzer

90 **CREs absent (3):**

91 Tonya Fernandes; Alan House (excused); Joanne Kublik (excused)

92 **Christian Educators with voice and vote present (0):**

93 **Christian Educators with voice present (0):**

94 **Presbytery Staff Members:** Melissa Willis – Administrator; Denise Vandiver (RE) – Treasurer; Eric
95 Hearn – Dogwood Acres Program Director

96 **Officers/Team Chairs:** Vicki Bell – PW Moderator; Glenn Hodges (RE) – Committee on Representation;
97 Rich Kangas (RE) – Committee on Nominations; Don Mowat (RE) – Moderator

98 **Visitors:** Susan Byram (Pensacola, First); Larry Plank (Navarre); Clark Simmons (Board of Pensions);
99 Susan White (Pensacola, Northminster); Denise Harper (Pensacola, Northminster); Lamerle Feitsma
100 (Chipley); Mary Hodges (Tallahassee, First); Polly Land (Marianna, First); Susan Pedersen (Fort Walton
101 Beach, First); James McQuagge (Panama City, Grace)

102 **Visiting Ministers: (1):** Shuford White

103 **OPENING PRAYER, QUORUM, DOCKET**

104 Moderator Don Mowat called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM CDT/10:00 AM EDT. A quorum (ten
105 Ministers of Word and Sacrament and ten elders, representing at least ten member congregations) was
106 present, and Moderator Mowatt opened the meeting with prayer.

107 The Presbytery approved Roy Martin, General Presbyter, to serve as Stated Clerk for the meeting and
108 approved the docket with the addition of reports from the Personnel Committee and Strategic Planning
109 Task Force.

110 **WELCOME:** Hugh Hamilton, Pastor to Trinity Presbyterian Church, welcomed the presbytery to Trinity,
111 gave a brief history and update on Trinity, and gave instructions for the day's activity, meals, and facilities.

112 **INTRODUCTIONS:** First-time ruling elders, teaching elders, corresponding members, and visitors were
113 introduced.

114 **MORNING WORSHIP Ruling Elder Pam McNulty of Pensacola-Northminster Presbyterian Church**

115 served as liturgist for worship assisted by Mrs. Hyunjoo Kim, organist Trinity Presbyterian Church,
116 Pensacola. The Rev. Eric Spoon's sermon, "Running From God," Genesis 1:26-27, 3:8 and Jonah 1:1-3,
117 inspired us to recall moments in our lives we wish to remember or to forget, indicating our response to
118 God's call and direction. Using the flight of Jonah to illustrate our openness to God's direction, Rev.
119 Spoon addressed our personal spiritual journeys and our corporate journey as a presbytery. We cannot hear
120 God's call if we have already told God what we want to hear or not hear. If we run away, we will not get to
121 see what God wants to do and how we may be part of God's amazing work. Trust God's plan to do better
122 than anything we imagine on our own. Allow yourself to be swallowed and delivered by God where you
123 need to go and to do what you need to do.

124 **EDUCATIONAL HOUR: Self-Development of People (SDOP).** Harvey Jenkins, Committee on
125 Mission and Outreach (CMO) Racial Justice Subcommittee member; Michael Askew, SDOP Committee

126 Chair; and Jim Krapf, SDOP Committee member, presented an overview of the history and operations of
127 the PC(USA) Self-Development of People program. Addressing social conditions that contribute to
128 poverty, hunger, socio-economic injustice, and related conditions, SDOP national staff help grass roots
129 SDOP committees to implement projects and programs to empower people to address a need confronting
130 them. With \$5000.00 grants and orchestrated approaches, SDOP committees own, control and benefit
131 directly from the implemented program. Recipients must be at or below the Federal Poverty Level and must
132 be involved in the development of project proposals, implementation of projects approved by SDOP
133 National, and directly benefit from the project. The presbytery's SDOP Committee receives funds from the
134 PC(USA) One Great Hour of Sharing Offering in direct proportion to the presbytery's contributions to
135 OGH offering. SDOP National provides resources to help presbytery SDOP Committees to identify
136 grassroots groups and to engage them in the SDOP application and implementation process.

137 **PARTNER RPORTS:**

138 **PC(USA) BOARD OF PENSIONS: Clark Simons. Cost increases are coming, discussion is invited.**
139 The GOOD NEWS is that the Pension Plan saw 4.2% increase in earnings as of July 1, 2023, allowing
140 4.2% good experience apportionment to members of the pension plan, and the plan is stable, funded at
141 152%. The BAD NEWS is that with the overall decline in clergy and church workers, we have fewer
142 pension plan members paying into the medical benefits plan and medical costs are skyrocketing. BOP is
143 working with HUMANA to offer plan members an alternative to Medicare Supplement Plans that will
144 secure PPO medical coverage at lower cost. Fall 2023 seminars and webinars will inform us of plans
145 underway. With BOP medical dues increasing, BOP is undertaking October 2023 first reading and March
146 2024 second reading of plans and proposals to manage costs. Without drastic adjustments, major medical
147 dues now at 29% of Effective Salary could jump to 40% in 2025, and some pundits fear jump to even 50%
148 of effective salary. BOP is looking at flat cost plans for pastors, payable by congregation and/or by pastor
149 by agreements, and possible dependents coverage by plans other than BOP, not under BOP. The
150 possibilities are painful for everyone. Hence, BOP is undertaking "*A Season of Rebuilding*" virtual
151 seminars and discussions in 2023 and 2024 and invite participation by clergy, staffs, and congregations.
152 Some type(s) of transitional coverage plans will be developed. Stay informed and participate in discussions
153 via www.Pensions.org.

154 **STAFF REPORTS:**

155 **REPORT FROM STATED CLERK: Jeannie Dixon**

156 Review of session minutes: All but one set of minutes for the years 2019,2020,2021 have been reviewed.
157 Review of 2022 minutes will be announced, Session clerks will please prepare their minutes for the review.
158 The checklist is on the presbytery website or can be requested by emailing the stated clerk.

159 **Communications:**

160 1. August 3, 2023 email from Kyle Walker, Stated Clerk, Grace Presbytery, Irving, TX

161 On Thu, Aug 3, 2023 at 10:44 PM Kyle Walker <walkertexasrev@gmail.com> wrote:

162 I was encouraged to share this for knowledge, insight, and of course prayers. This week two of our
163 churches were approached by a man pretending to be a college student interviewing for a religion class
164 about female pastors of open and affirming churches. In one case the pastor was not in. In another case, the
165 pastor held an on camera interview for the "student". This individual posted the video to his hate
166 amplifying YouTube channel and called for the death of the pastor and deadly violence to the church.

167 Police have two reports now on file.

168 We have communicated to our churches the need to ensure safety and security practices are in place and
169 to not accept interviews such as this. We now believe this individual is affiliated with Stedfast Baptist
170 Church which is a named hate group located in Dallas. This might seem like a prank or idle threat only, but
171 we know this same individual brought violence on a Plano U-U Church:

172 <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/rcna96586>

173 If any of you have wisdom for those of us in Grace Presbytery, I would appreciate it. I know answers are
174 few but your experience with how to bring law enforcement beyond the report filing stage is especially
175 helpful. In my humble opinion, we have a terrorism case here that is getting bigger and bigger in DFW.
176 Kyle Walker, Stated Clerk, Grace Presbytery

177 Information was shared about 1) the African American Clergy & Educator Retreat, September 11-13, 2023,
178 Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island, GA. Registration Deadline - August 1, 2023. A time for great
179 worship, renewal, relaxation, and fellowship. Theme: IN LIVING COLOR with the focus Scripture being
180 Colossians 2:6-7. This is our first in- person gathering since 2019 and will be worth just being in fellowship
181 and having space for relaxation.
182 and 2) The Association of Smaller Congregations Annual Conference: "The Gift of Small." February 29-
183 March 4, 2024, Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island, GA. The theme for this next gathering is "The Gift
184 of Small," which we will explore together with our speakers and workshop leaders. Please mark your
185 calendars for February 29 - March 4, 2024, and look for more details by email and on our website.

186 **REPORT FROM DOGWOOD ACRES: Eric Hearn**

187 **Staff:** Kathy Powell has resigned as Bookkeeper to focus on taking care of husband Ben, former DWA
188 Director, James Vance worked as interim bookkeeper, and now Michele Morris is Dogwood's new
189 accounting consultant. Michele also serves as UKirk Tallahassee's accounting consultant. New Kitchen
190 Manager Starla Batson has become an amazing asset to DWA.

191 **Summer Camp:** By support of our Presbytery's churches DWA provided four weeks of summer camp.
192 Thank you to the following churches for sending us wonderful, faithful, mature, responsible counselors to
193 work with our campers: FPC Marianna (Anna); Trinity PC (Antha, Ford); Christ PC (Meg, Zoe, Sam,
194 Caroline, McKenzie and Preston); Faith PC (Austin); FPC Lynn Haven (Eric); FPC Quincy (James); FPC
195 Tallahassee (Ethan, Camille) and Gulf Breeze PC (Matthew). The counselors were grateful to the churches
196 who provided "Counselor Treat Boxes" for each week of the summer – FPC Lynn Haven, FPC
197 Tallahassee, Christ Presbyterian and FPC Quincy.

198 Thank you to churches who helped supply us with camp nurses for the four weeks we had campers on site:
199 Sandra Kuhn (Lafayette); Lynne Metz (Faith); Ruben Diaz (FPC Tallahassee) and Nancy Repplinger
200 (Christ).

201 And many thanks to those who volunteered to be the Camp Chaplains: Erin Rugh (Faith); Brant Copeland
202 (HR) and Mary Vance (HR). In total we had 113 campers, so we are continuing to increase our number of
203 campers since the end of the pandemic. Of those 113, 71 were from our Presbytery's churches: Bethel PC,
204 FPC Defuniak

205 Springs, Gulf Breeze PC, St. Andrews, FPC Wewahitchka, Gulf Beach PC, FPC Quincy, Faith PC, Trinity
206 PC, Christ PC, and FPC Tallahassee. 22 campers did not list any church affiliation at all, and our great hope
207 is that through the loving and accepting community we created during a week of camp, the worship and the
208 bible study that we participated in, and the relationships built, we not only offered these campers a glimpse
209 of what it means a Christian, loved as children of God but also what the PCUSA values and supports.

210 **Racial Ethnic Campers:** Thank you to Harvey Jenkins and Michael Askew for working diligently as
211 representatives of the Racial Justice Subcommittee to ensure that campers from the surrounding community
212 were paired with churches who could provide scholarships.

213 **New Partnership:** Through the work of the RJSC, we began a new partnership with Anchorage Children's
214 Home in the Panama City area. Through the generosity of donors, Dogwood Acres was able to provide
215 another 19 scholarships for campers. 34 campers received church sponsored scholarships.

216 **High School:** One of our biggest successes this camp season was the addition of a High School Only week
217 of camp. This week allowed high school campers the opportunity to do some off-site adventure trips, have
218 a slightly altered schedule and have more in-depth discussions. All the high school campers were members
219 of churches in our Presbytery, and most had grown up attending camp at Dogwood. Following this week,
220 several of the campers came back to Dogwood to serve as resource staff people, counselors in training and
221 volunteers. More than half of these campers will attend our upcoming Presbyterian Youth Council planning

222 retreat at the end of August and serve as the leadership for our Spiritfest Middle School Retreat. This week
223 of high school camp let us see the fruits of our labors – and yours! – in growing leaders in the church.
224 **Buddy Camp** was a segment of a week of camp where high school aged campers with differing abilities
225 were able to be part of a unit of campers. We had some of our wonderful high school leaders come join this
226 unit for the week. All our counselors and staff had some additional training from Susie Barber, FPC
227 Marianna, who is a teacher at the Hope School in Marianna. The week included all the activities of a
228 typical week at Dogwood with careful attention to the unique needs of these campers.

229 **Summer Camp for Outside Groups:** Before and after Dogwood’s own Summer Camp program, we had
230 two large local churches use our site to provide their own summer camp experience. Holmes Valley Church
231 spent the week of June 4 – 9 leading 70 campers through activities and Bible study. They had a total of 88
232 people on-site using every bed and the RV sites. Lighthouse Church in Panama City spent July 31 – August
233 2 using our site for a children’s camp experience. They had 76 people.

234 **Upcoming Dogwood Facilitated Retreats**

235 October 6-8: Spiritfest – annual retreat for Middle School Youth led by High School Youth and college
236 mentors.

237 November 3-5: Reading, Writing, Resting Retreat for adults. This retreat will include a book group
238 discussion, a book swap and share, a workshop on personal creative writing, yoga, hiking, hammocking,
239 napping, “moth radio hour” sharing, good food, worship and fellowship. Our workshop leader and
240 discussion facilitator will be Harriet Riley, formerly of FPC Pensacola and now a member of St Charles
241 Ave PC in NOLA.

242 January 19 – 21: PAUSE -the now Annual Women’s Yoga Retreat. Eat, pray, yoga!!

243 February 2 – 4: Dogwood Youth Conference – an annual retreat for Middle and High School Youth led by
244 college students.

245 **Church Retreat Schedule**

246 Churches in our Presbytery as well as churches and organizations in the panhandle not associated with
247 the PC(USA) are busy booking Dogwood for retreats. October is full and we have groups booked out past
248 February 2024! Now is the time to contact us if you are considering bringing a group from your church out
249 to Dogwood. We can work with you on dates, menus, and activities. We also have full retreat curriculum
250 resources for you to use if you want help with content for your time at camp.

251 **Property:** Our cabin renovations were completed during the first week of June. During the summer we
252 have continued to keep up with all the many projects to keep Dogwood in good shape. We are grateful for
253 the hard and consistent work of James Vance. James is at Dogwood at least once a week, is in contact with
254 volunteer groups, serves as project manager on any building or maintenance, and mows endlessly. Brant
255 Copeland also has volunteered countless hours – even mowing and doing bridge repairs while serving as
256 the camp chaplain!

257 We have several projects in the works for this fall. Contact us if you have a group interested in getting their
258 hands dirty!

259 **REPORT FROM PRESBYTERY TREASURER: Denise Vandiver**

260 Treasurer Vandiver shared update on support pledged and giving to date.

261 The operating budget shows a loss; currently we have used \$67,000 of unrestricted reserve funds to balance
262 the budget.

263 **REPORT FROM GENERAL PRESBYTER: Roy Martin**

264 Presbyter Roy Martin and his wife benefitted from their travel and study leave in England and Scotland this
265 summer and thanked the presbytery for the time allotted. They spent much of their time assessing the life of
266 the church in Scotland and changes and challenges similar to what our denomination is facing. Since 2018
267 the Church of Scotland has intentionally assessed and adapted their governance, reducing by 30% their
268 denominational budget, and reducing 43 presbyteries to 12 larger geographic presbyteries. The PCUSA
269 now faces the same prospect; reducing the number of presbyteries and considering how Synods do mission
270 in the new environment. We now face the same challenges in 2024. In 1971, the PCUS combined
271 presbyteries and reduced the number of presbyteries and Synods. In 1983, at the reunion of PCUS and

272 UPCUSA into the new PC(USA) denomination, all presbyteries and synods were again rearranged
273 geographically and enacted name changes. We are now facing the same challenges, and we must change.
274 We have fewer members and less financial support and struggle to fill vacancies on presbytery committees
275 to do our work. Roy Martin and other General/Executive Presbyters wish to overture General Assembly to
276 reexamine our mission, life, and support, else we cannot continue to function as presbyteries.
277 Dr. Martin also shared pastoral concerns for Ben Powell and The Rev. Anne Apple, who are battling health
278 issues.

279 **COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION REPORTS:**

280 **Coordinating And Planning Commission (CPC): Trinity Whitley**

281 CPC needs nominations for Committee on Nominations and Committee on Representation.

282 **Committee on Presbytery Administration: Brad Clayton**

283 CPA presented an asking budget for 2024 for use in Presbytery's Fall 2023 Stewardship Campaign. Sad
284 news is that our presbytery is in financial trouble. In 2016 in response to our decline in financial support we
285 hired a part-time Executive Presbyter, the Rev. Paul Luthman, and considered options of possibly splitting
286 our presbytery and merging with South Alabama and Flint River presbyteries. We voted to stay together
287 and to revitalize our presbytery and to undertake the "Building Our Presbytery" financial campaign to
288 bolster our finances. The \$150,000 grant from Trinity Presbyterian Church enabled presbytery to stay afloat
289 and to hire a full time General Presbyter. Annual support from congregations has not risen enough to fully
290 fund our presbytery, and we have used unrestricted reserve funds and proceeds from the sale of closed
291 churches to bridge the gap in finances. Realistically we can only afford a \$350,000 budget; Undesignated
292 reserves will be depleted at the end of 2023. We have been drawing on average \$60,000 annually from our
293 reserves to balance our budget since 2016.

294 CPA recommends a flat budget 2024 the same as 2023 and expects a \$100,000 deficit. No reserve funds
295 will be available after 2023 to cover the shortfall. Our present \$456,000 budget cannot be sustained, so we
296 expect significant cuts. Shared support in 2023 is \$366,000; for 2024 budget of the same amount we will
297 need \$90,000 increased income to fund our present budget. Cutting our Presbytery of Florida budget by
298 \$100,000 will drastically alter our presbytery mission and operations. Closing declining churches will be
299 painful.

300 **FOR ACTION: Presbytery approved the preliminary budget of \$456,000.00 for stewardship**
301 **purposes, and an amended budget will be presented for approval in February 2024.**

302 **Strategic Planning Task Force: Mark Broadhead**

303 The Task Force has 1) interviewed committee chairs, presbytery staff, and Dogwood Acres personnel, 2)
304 reviewed Book of Order prescriptions and requirements for a presbytery, 3) reviewed present presbytery
305 manual of operations, 4) considered structures and operations of presbyteries in our Synod and made
306 personal contacts with leaders and clergy in those presbyteries, 5) reviewed our presbytery finances, and 6)
307 reviewed results of Holy Cow Landscape assessment of the presbytery. The Task Force will report our
308 findings and recommendations at the October 2023 presbytery meeting, including our recommendations
309 how to streamline the presbytery operations, address budget concerns, focus our mission and operations in
310 ways to benefit our congregations' ministries. We are excited about our recommendations but realize that
311 not everyone will be pleased. How timely a word we received in morning worship about not running from
312 God but allowing God to do a new thing through us and our presbytery.

313 **COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR ACTION/UPDATES**

314 **Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO): Hugh Hamilton**

315 **For Action: Approval of Guatemala Partnership:** Presbytery approved the following partnership
316 agreement with The Presbyterian Women of Guatemala, to provide scholarships to women in the PW
317 literacy and theological studies programs.

318 Covenant of agreement between The National Union of Presbyterian Women (UNMP) of the National
319 Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Guatemala (IENPG) and The Presbytery of Florida, The Presbyterian
320 Church (USA)

321 Shared beliefs: We are called to be a part of the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ, one church called to
322 mission through proclaiming the Kingdom of God, serving God's people, building up the body of Christ
323 through teaching of the Word and witnessing God's incarnation on earth in the Lord Jesus under the
324 guidance of the Holy Spirit.

325 We recognize the cultural and linguistic diversity of both countries as a blessing from God.

326 We walk together under one faith, one baptism, one God of all in submission to Holy Scripture.

327 Purpose: The purpose of the partnership is to support and empower God's people, especially women, for
328 Christ's ministries in their daily lives - home, school, workplace, church, and community.

329 History:

330 The Presbytery of Florida has been working with the mission co-worker in Guatemala, Rev. Eliane
331 Menezes since 2021 during the Covid19 pandemic to determine how to best participate as a presbytery in
332 partnership with UNMP. The Committee on Mission and Outreach of the Presbytery of Florida seeks to
333 develop a presbytery-wide mission project engaging all our congregations.

334 Both UNMP and the Presbytery of Florida agree to the following:

335 Pray for each other: We commit to pray for the wellbeing of the people, the churches, and the communities
336 of the IENGP and the Presbytery of Florida. Because of the language differences, we agree to pray for each
337 other as moved by the Holy Spirit. Specific prayer requests will be shared at the biannual meetings as
338 described in the communication section and incorporated into our prayers.

339 Communication: The Presbytery of Florida will identify a contact person who will work directly with the
340 mission co-worker in Guatemala. We will send and receive at least biannual communication. Zoom
341 meetings would be the preferred method of communication. Communication will include devotions and
342 updates on projects, people, churches, and communities in both regions. The Presbytery of Florida will be
343 responsible for the devotion at the first biannual meeting and the UNMP will be responsible for the
344 devotional at the second meeting. Translators will be arranged to do the translating.

345 The Presbytery of Florida will share the information to the churches in their presbytery through articles in
346 the Panhandle Presbyterian Monthly written by the USA contact person, during presbytery meetings,
347 website, e-mails, etc.

348 The UNMP will share the information to the women in the UNMP.

349 Projects: The Presbytery of Florida agrees to provide annually \$300 toward secular scholarships (one
350 student per year), \$300.00 for theological scholarships (one student per year) and \$400 for literacy
351 programs under the auspices of UNMP (one of four literacy projects in the four districts across the
352 country).

353 To raise more money for these projects the USA contact person and any team members will engage the
354 churches in the presbytery encouraging them as a church, a Sunday school class, a women's group, etc. to
355 finance one or more scholarships and/or literacy programs.

356 New Project requests:

357 As these groups solidify their involvement, new project proposals may come under consideration. Specific
358 projects will be approved by both UNMP and the Presbytery of Florida.

359 One-time gifts (like supplying Bibles, textbooks, stipends for tutors, class supplies or food) will also need
360 to be approved by UNMP and the Presbytery of Florida.

361 Fiscal responsibility:

362 We will be open and transparent with respect to exchanges of money and materials. We will verify with
363 reports, photographs, receipts, and site visits that resources are used appropriately.

364 Hospitality:

365 In as far as possible each region will prepare and offer hospitality and opportunities for developing
366 fellowship between both partners. Ultimately this may include site visits, but it can also include a sharing of
367 cultures and worship over the internet.

368 Terms of covenant:
369 This partnership covenant will last three years. At the end of the third year, both parties will assess the
370 future direction of the partnership.

371 **For Information:**

372 Community Action Grants: CMO's first Community Action Grant was to First Presbyterian Church-
373 Tallahassee and their partner churches engaged in developing a "Guns2Gardens" initiative, a ministry that
374 safely and legally dismantles and/or destroys unwanted firearms voluntarily surrendered. The remaining
375 metal pieces are then forged into life-giving garden tools. The summer 2023 event netted 30 guns
376 contributed for transformation into useful gardening implements.

377 Reminder: CMO's Community Action Grant guidelines and application forms are posted to the
378 presbytery's website. (www.presbyteryofflorida.net/presbytery-committees/mission-outreach.) Forms and
379 applications are posted for:

- 380 a. Community Action Grants
- 381 b. Covenant Agreement Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) and the Florida presbyteries.
- 382 c. 2 Cents a Meal Hunger Grants
- 383 d. Disaster Emergency Assistance
- 384 e. The Presbytery of Florida Peacemaking grants

385	CMO Restricted Funds balances as of July 1, 2023	
386	4203 Emergency Relief Fund	\$6,203.85
387	4252 & 3129 Two Cents a Meal Hunger Fund	\$32,975.02
388	4253 Peacemaking Fund	\$7,997.76
389	4255 Self Development of People Fund	\$782.77

390 FLAPDAN: The 2024 PDA/FLAPDAN Covenant Agreement has been approved by the FLAPDAN Board
391 of Directors and will be sent to presbyteries for concurrence and final approval. The FLAPDAN Board is
392 working to establish the FLAPDAN Board with representatives from each presbytery into classes of
393 members with three-year renewable terms. Plan to move to the board system in January 2024. The
394 FLAPDAN budget planning is underway, sending requests for support to presbyteries for 2024 budget.
395 Strategic Planning – FLAPDAN Board is working 1) to update mission statement, 2) to identify program
396 domains and annual metrics of success, 3) to develop succession plan for Executive Director position, 4)
397 extended David Myers consultant contract through the end of 2024 to assist with strategic planning process.
398 5) FLAPDAN's 20-year celebration in 2025: plans are underway to celebrate and promote FLAPDAN
399 across the state.

400 Racial Justice Subcommittee/Self Development of People (SDOP): The Racial Justice Subcommittee and
401 the SDOP Committee will present an educational hour on SDOP at the August 22 Presbytery meeting
402 regarding joint efforts at racial reconciliation and justice. The Racial Justice Subcommittee requested and
403 received from churches and individuals scholarship funds by which seven racial-ethnic campers are
404 attending Dogwood Acres summer camps. CMO considers DWA scholarships for racial-ethnic campers as
405 proper use of our Presbytery of Florida Peacemaking Funds #4253 and may consider them in the future.

406 Visiting Cuban Pastor: September 20-25, 2023. Under the auspices of the Presbyterian Mission Agency
407 (PCUSA) this visiting pastor will itinerate in our presbytery and bring his presentations about social
408 conditions and ministry in Cuba to churches in our presbytery willing to host him. First Presbyterian
409 Church – Tallahassee will host him; churches interested in hosting him are to contact Anne Apple at
410 Tallahassee-First. Note: The pastor is still awaiting a visa, so details are tentative.

411 **Committee on Nominations: Rich Kangas.**

412 Presbytery Approved the following: Joyce Kelley, Elder, DeFuniak Springs to Committee on
413 Congregational Discernment, Class of 02/2026, and Rev. Erin Rugh, Associate Minister, Faith, Tallahassee
414 to Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Class of 02/2026.

415 For Information:

416 1) The committee is searching for a female elder from the East District for Presbytery Vice-Moderator.
417 This applicant should have experience at presbytery level and not presently serving on a presbytery
418 committee.

419 2) Committee will present the 226th General Assembly candidates at Fall 2023 presbytery meeting. We still
420 need nominations for a Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD); must be 17 years old but not more than
421 23 years old at date of General Assembly (June 25-July 4, 2023) in Salt Lake City, UT.

422 3) Listing of presbytery committee vacancies (16) was shared with requests for nominations.

423 **Committee on Congregational Discernment (CCD): Mark Broadhead**

424 **For information:**

425 An Emergency Repairs Grant was approved for Chipley-First in the amount of \$5,000 for the purpose of
426 repairing roof, gable, and interior water damage due to a squirrel infestation.

427 DeFuniak Springs-Bethel continues to engage the community surrounding their church. Neighbors have
428 been expressing more of an interest in what the congregation is about. They also continue to explore
429 physical repairs to their facilities. Two children were sponsored to attend Dogwood Acres summer camp.
430 Shelia Clark and Michael Askew are their liaisons.

431 Milton-First Revitalization is continuing. They have engaged the Holy Cow Congregational Assessment
432 Tool for a second time, citing that the congregation is in a different place than it was when the CAT was
433 first done in 2021. Mark Broadhead is their consultant.

434 Pensacola-Northminster is slowly continuing its revitalization work. Due to summer activities the
435 Revitalization Team has not met since May. Linda Lovins is their consultant.

436 Panama City-Parkway is moving ahead. The Revitalization Team has identified and spelled out three top
437 strategies that have been approved by their Session and are embarking on new ways to stir up excitement.
438 There are signs of a motivated group within the church. The Team meets weekly as they continue their
439 work. Lisa Martin is their consultant.

440 Panama City-Grace has bogged down a bit in their revitalization process but are being encouraged to keep
441 moving forward. They have taken action to incorporate their childcare/preschool under the jurisdiction of
442 the Session with good results so far. The Session is working on worship improvements. They have also
443 indicated they intend to reach out to the Tyndall AFB community as an avenue for possible growth. Harvey
444 Jenkins is their liaison.

445 Freeport has expressed interest in engaging the discernment process. Mark Broadhead will meet with them
446 in August to present the procedure.

447 Lynn Haven-First will be exploring the discernment process in September. Mark Broadhead will be their
448 liaison should they choose to engage.

449 **Committee on Educational Resources (CER): John Stringer**

450 **For information:** CER seeks your suggestions for topics for educational hours.

451 **Committee on Ministry (COM): Joan Wooten**

452 **For information:**

453 The Committee on Ministry has received the following items as information:

454 1. Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) evaluations from Northminster and Woodland & Gretna

455 2. Briefing on the new Church Leadership Connection (CLC) system

456 3. Interim Ministry Information Form (MIF) for Quincy-First

457 The Committee on Ministry approved the following items:

458 1. 2023 Terms of Call for pastors of the following congregations: Lynn Haven-First, Pensacola First,
459 Tallahassee-Christ, Gulf Breeze, Havana, Crestview-First & Laurel Hill

460 2. Request for exemption from Crestview-First
461 3. Rev. Joan Hedrich Wooten to serve as Moderator of Chipley-First
462 4. Rev. Emily Rose Proctor to serve as Moderator of Freeport
463 5. Proposed 2024 COM budget
464 6. The Pastor Transition Team is working through its liaisons with Marianna-First, Euchee Valley,
465 Trinity, Lafayette, Tallahassee-First, Quincy-First, and Fort Walton Beach-First.
466 The Temporary Pastoral Leadership Team continues to update the pulpit supply list.
467 The Relational Ministry Team is working through its liaisons to visit congregations, with special emphasis
468 on those which have part-time pastoral leadership or pulpit supply.
469 The Committee is working on setting up mandatory training in accordance with our Presbytery's sexual
470 misconduct policy. There are also revisions to the COM Handbook which we are working on with Rev.
471 Mark Broadhead.

472 **Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM): Sheldon Steen**

473 **For information:**

474 CPC urges us to recommend candidates for CRE (lay pastors); advise them, ask them if they feel called to
475 serve.
476 Consider young people in our congregations who may be suited to ordained ministry and urge them to
477 explore their sense of call with the CPM.

478 **Committee on New Congregational Development (CNCD): A. J. Mealor**

479 **For information:** CNCD has reviewed matched PIFs and interviewed candidates. Earlier this month
480 CNCN was on the verge of hosting in-person interviews, but the candidate removed their name from
481 consideration. The committee met to discern next steps. CNCD will move forward using our current MIF
482 until the end of August when the CLC "legacy" site is shut down and then shift to the new CLC personal
483 and ministry discernment forms. After meeting with an interested local resident, assessing further economic
484 data, and spending time in the community the committee decided to increase the minimum effective salary
485 to \$75,000. The previous minimum of \$62,299 was based on the maximum salary allowed by a Board of
486 Pensions grant.

487 **Committee on Representation (CR): Glenn Hodges**

488 **For information:** CR is working with the Committee on Nominations (CN) to ensure that committees in
489 the Presbytery are diverse, inclusive, and equitable. The Chair of the CR participates in CN monthly
490 meetings.

491 The committee plans to develop a mission statement and goals and objectives for the church calendar year
492 to ensure that the CR is functioning efficiently. The CR has gathered annual congregation statistics for
493 2023. A full copy of the statistics is available from the presbytery office and was included in the presbytery
494 meeting handbook/agenda and reports.

495

496 **Presbyterian Women: Vicki Bell, PW Moderator**

497 This summer has been a labor of love to contact all the churches in the Presbytery of Florida to gather the
498 list of their PW officers for our Presbyterian Women for 2023-2024 Directory. There are churches who do
499 not have an active PW group, and we will list a church contact. Our goal is to have all the information a
500 Presbyterian Women group or church could possibly need.

501 Presbyterian Women will hold their August Coordinating Team Meeting and workshop for the church-level
502 moderators, historians, treasurers, and Together In Service Coordinators at the First Presbyterian Church in
503 Chipley on August 19, 2023. Our Coordinating Team is experiencing the same challenge as the churches of
504 our Presbytery finding those Presbyterian Women called to volunteer their time to serve on the church and
505 presbytery level.

506 The Scholarship Committee was proud to award two scholarships this year. One to Glenn Hodges. One of
507 our applicants made the decision to wait another year before attending Columbia Theological Seminary.

508 **New Business: none**

509 ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER

510 The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 1:17PM CST/2:17 PM EST by Moderator Don Mowat.

511 NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, October 24, 2023: 9AM Central/10AM Eastern at First, Lynn Haven, FL.

512 Minutes respectfully submitted,

513 Hugh Hamilton,

514 Recording Clerk

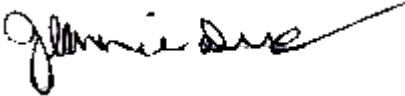
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Don Mowat, Moderator
Roy Martin, Acting Stated Clerk
Hugh Hamilton, Recording Clerk

518 *Approved by the Coordinating and Planning Commission September 28, 2023*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeannie Dixon", written over a horizontal line.

519 Jeannie Dixon, Stated Clerk